

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Pacific Fishery Management Council voted last week to ban commercial and recreational fishing for King salmon this season. That recommendation will be forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service for approval by May 1. Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel) released the following statement:

"The devastating declines in the number of King salmon is another sign that we are failing to care for our oceans.

"The ban will have a devastating effect on families up and down the California coast. Gov. Schwarzenegger has already declared a state of emergency and has asked President Bush for federal assistance.

"Coming to the aid of our fishermen is the least the White House can do. This administration has stood idly by as economic interests have trumped conservation and protection time and time again.

"It's past time that Congress enact a law allowing for greater national and regional governance of our oceans. Oceans-21, the bill I introduced in Congress last year, is preparing to be heard by the House Committee on Natural Resources. We must stop ignoring our oceans and begin to properly care for them."

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